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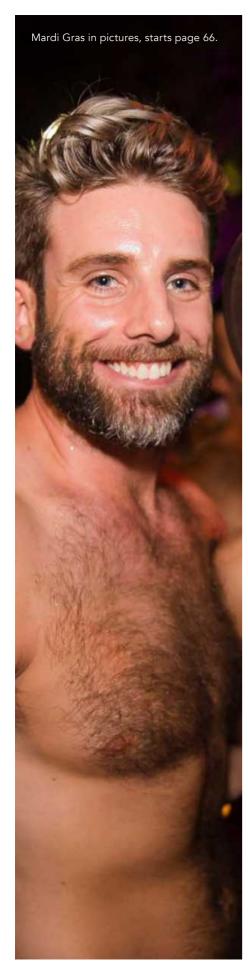














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April 201

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Jacob Woodhouse wears Bike Rattler Shoulder Pads and Barcode Anton Swim Jock available at xplcitassistance.com. Story starts page 42.

PHOTOGRAPHY CHRISTIAN SCOTT. WWW. STUDIOCHRISTIANSCOTT.COM INSTAGRAM @CHRISTIANSCOTT









ABOVE ALL ELSE



Fun And Games

NO POLITICS OR COMMENTARY FROM ME THIS MONTH, JUST SOME FUN MOMENTS THAT WERE CRAMMED INTO A COUPLE OF VERY BUSY WEEKS.

■ irst up, it was hard to miss the Gay And Lesbian Mardi Gras in Sydney! The city filled up with excited visitors, Fair Day (in its temporary location) was a blast, and the Parade, although threatened by rain, was a glittering, glamorous, gloriously gay success.

I have to own up and admit that I didn't make it to the Party! I was too pooped. But we have great pictures from both the Parade and Party starting from page 66 and there are heaps more in the Digital version. As spectacular as the Parade was, a highlight for me was bumping into the adorable Thom Ward and Emily Barclay from Please Like Me, a show I adored.

The first Australian LGBTI Awards were presented a couple of days before Mardi Gras at a gala dinner at the Sydney Opera House and you can read more about them on page 22. My partner and I were seated at a table with comedian Joel Creasey and his date and Christine Forster and her partner Virginia Edwards. Christine was up for an Award in the Politics category (which ended up going to Penny Wong), and Joel presented the Sportsperson Award, which he did hilariously. Joel also gave me some great gossip about other gay comedians like Rhys Nicholson, Josh Thomas and Tom Ballard – all totally inappropriate to print. Yet! Ian "Molly" Meldrum received the Lifetime Achievement Award and it was a privilege to be able to say hello and take a selfie with him.

Finally, I want to tell you about this month's cover star, Jacob Woodhouse. We found Jacob while casting for a bloke who could carry the Sports issue. Many thanks to John Scott at Platform Me agency for sending Jacob to DNA. The shoot with photographer Christian Scott was an eight-hour marathon but it flew by because Jacob was so professional and ready to explore all our ideas. It wasn't until the day of the shoot that I learned about Jacob's professional rugby history - check out his story on page 42 and find out what makes him perfect for the cover of our Sports issue – apart from looking spectacularly sexy.

Our major feature this month is an in-depth account of the life and crimes of Chelsea Manning. With her discharge from military prison coming up next month, this enigmatic figure in American and LGBTI history faces an interesting future. Andrew M Potts' story traces her early troubled life as Bradley, time in the army, how she accessed the data she eventually leaked, and her gender transition while incarcerated. It's a wild ride and, I suspect, her life is yet to provide some more interesting twists and turns.

Join us next month for our special Weddings issue and, meanwhile, enjoy this month's reading. Remember, if you are a Print subscriber you automatically have access to the Digital version with extra content for the tablet or mobile device. Go to DNAmagazine.com.au/digital to redeem your free Digital subscription.

Andrew Creagh Founding Editor











Joel Creasey gave me some great gossip on his fellow gay comedians, Rhys Nicholson, Tom **Ballard and Josh Thomas!**



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INSIDE THE MINDS OF DNA READERS! EMAILS, LETTERS, TWEETS, FACEBOOK POSTS, CARRIER PIGEON DISPATCHES AND RAMBLINGS



CHEYENNE PARKER ON THE COVER

So sexy cover! - Eduardo Gonzalez Why didn't we get to see Cheyenne's "Next Big Thing?" - Neville

Sorry Nev, we'll do better in future. - Ed.

BRIDE AND PREJUDICE

What a sad story for Christopher Jewell and Grant, his husband on Bride And Prejudice. Thanks for featuring them last issue (#206). If anything good has come from the show it's that viewers saw how screwed up Chris' mother

and father were by their church beliefs, and they are now the examples of how *not* to show love, compassion and tolerance - hey, aren't they supposed to be Christian values? BTW, Christopher's package in that photo. Just saying. - Neville

There you go, Nev, I promised we'd do better in future. - Ed.

NEXT BIG THING: 3D PORN

3D Augmented Porn, holy fuck, you have got to be kidding? (Next Big Thing: Digital Boyfriend, DNA #206). The future of real-life fucking is in doubt! We'll all be at home plugged into the internet with a pair goggles strapped on our heads and a hands-free vibrating Fleshlight buzzing away on our cocks! People already have unrealistic ideas about body shape, healthy bodies, cock sizes, butt fucking and intimacy. No one will want real, smelly, sweaty, ugly sex ever again. Only thing is, I know that I for one can't wait to try it! - Ash Vaughn

Bring on the 3D porn. Can't come fast enough, pardon the pun, if you ask me. - Eddie88.

ARMY OF MEN

John Bortolin's shoot with model Brad for Army Of Men fetish gear [right] attracted a lot of attention on our Facebook page, with over 6,000 Likes and over 400 Shares. Some of the

comments...

- "Doesn't this almost make you want to move to Australia?"
- "I love you."
- "Damn, I love that leather look, those muscles and that big bulge."



DNA POLL:

WE ASKED READERS WHICH SPORTS GOT THEM FIRED UP. NO SURPRISE WHICH PARTICULAR SPORT WAS MOST POPULAR BY FAR!

GYMNASTICS	22%
SWIMMING	15%
DIVING	15%
RUGBY	14%
AUSSIE RULES	11%
TENNIS	11%
WRESTLING	7%
SOCCER	5%

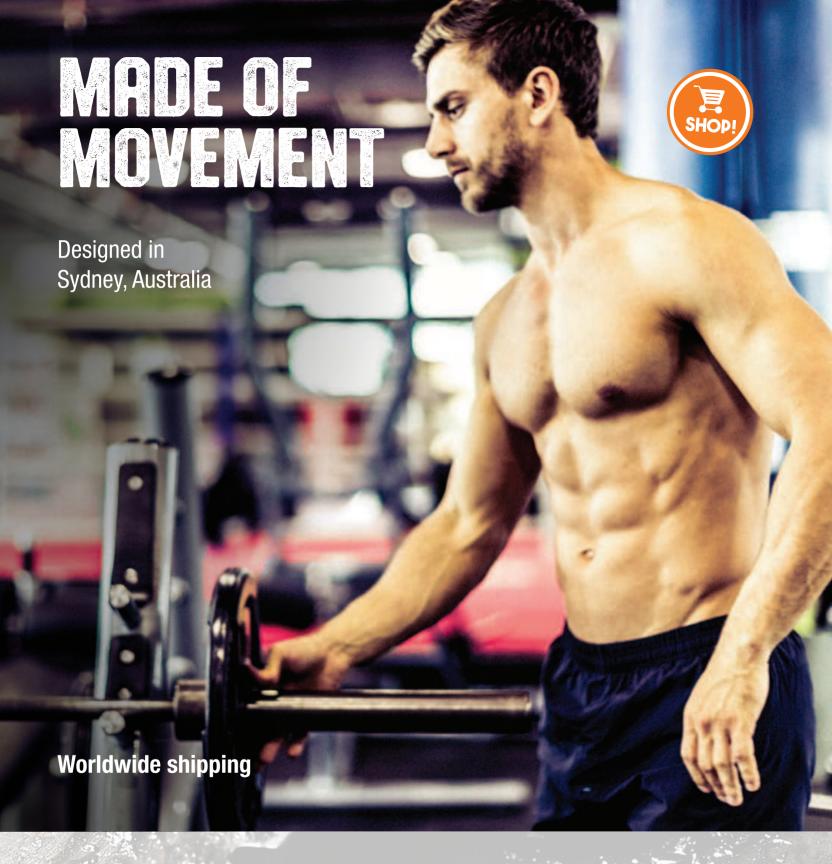












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You are the wind beneath my wings (no, seriously.)

EGGINGS



I Am Michael starring James Franco and Zachary Quinto.

JAMES AND ZACHARY

I Am Michael tells the true story of Michael Glatze, a once-out-and-proud activist and journalist who turned to God after becoming celiac. "Born again" Michael declared he was no longer gay and suggested that "divine intervention" had straightened him out. He left his long-term gay partner and moved to Wyoming, studied to become a pastor and married a woman. James Franco does some of his best work in gay roles, and this film offers a challenge to both the actor and a gay audience. A talking-point film. Available on DVD.

A NICE PAIR OF SLACKS

No one at DNA ever imagined we'd be Loving – gasp! – a nice pair of slacks but, readers, just look at the curves on Justin Trudeau. Canada's dreamy PM... he can wear anything!

Faking

These leggings are so hip they hurt.

comfortable and compatible with your top-knot, thrift-store sunnies and '50s

retro furniture.

Go to mrmsquared.com.au

Actually, they're stretchy so they don't hurt at all. Colourful,

GET THE LOOK!



Everyone loves a nice tan – no one loves prematurely aged skin and melanoma! The answer is to fake it but DIY tans can look streaky and, well, a bit DIY! Self-tanners with soft, foamy applicator mitts that spread the tanning lotion evenly are the best option. Check out bkedmen.com.



Adorable *Where The Wild Things Are* costume from Sydney's recent Mardi Gras Parade. We'd go wherever his wild thing took us!



RUFSKIN5 CRAFTED IN CALIFORNIA



And so, to anyone watching this who sees themselves in us [the characters in the film], let this be a symbol, a reflection that leads you to love yourself. Because doing so may be the difference between dreaming at all and... realising dreams you never allowed yourself to have.

 Moonlight Director Barry Jenkins reveals the brief Oscars speech he planned on giving but didn't due to the mistake that announced La La Land as Best Picture at the ceremony.

>> COOPERS BREWERY

backtracks on its perceived support for an antimarriage equality religious group after Australian pubs start boycotting its beer. Bars across the country remove Coopers from sale after a video emerged

"making light" of the debate to introduce gay marriage. The brewery also created a limited edition beer to celebrate the anti-gay Bible Society's 200th birthday. Coopers apologise and insist they supports marriage equality in Australia.

>> PRINCESS DIANA'S former butler Paul Burrell comes out, revealing he has had a boyfriend for a decade and plans to marry him. Burrell was married to a woman for more than 30 years but is now divorced. Britain's tabloid press allege that Burrell took part in a "huge gay orgy" on the Queen's Royal Yacht in 1981.

>> TUNISIAN POLICE detain two men because "they looked gay" and send them for "anal probing" examinations to prove they are. The Tunisian men, in their early twenties, were walking down a street when they were stopped and taken to a police cell. Police allegedly told them they were "bringing a curse upon the country." They await trial. Homosexuality is illegal in Tunisia and can be punished by up to three years in prison.

>> THE FOUNDER of the notorious gay conversion therapy organisation National Association for Research And Therapy Of Homosexuality (NARTH) dies. Dr Joseph Nicolosi launched the movement in 1981, stating that "everyone is heterosexual"

and being gay is a "social construct".

NARTH used various discredited techniques to attempt to "help men reduce their unwanted same-sex attractions and assist them in exploring their heterosexual potential".

>> HIV RATES in New South Wales drop to a five-year low. Experts attribute the result to increased use of PrEP, which prevents infection in HIV negative people, and regular testing and effective treatments. NSW health chiefs say it is an encouraging sign. The state aims to eliminate HIV transmission by 2020.



>> TWO AMERICAN brothers are arrested in Indiana for making out while naked in the street. Timothy and Noah Batz (pictured), both in their early twenties, were reportedly high on marijuana and magic mushrooms at the time. They are charged with numerous offences, including incest and obscenity.

>> ONE IN EIGHT Californians identify as LGB or T a new poll reveals. The study, by Tulchin Research, asked 600 voters about their sexual orientation or gender identity. 16 per cent answered that they were lesbian, gay, bisexual or trans. Activists say it proves that the rights of LGBT people in the state cannot be ignored.

SHOWBIZ SIDE COLUMN



Teen Wolf hunk Colton Haynes (above) becomes engaged to his florist boyfriend Jeff Leatham, who proposed on a Mexican beach. A specially recorded video message by Cher played on a big screen as he popped the question. Haynes says his life "is like something from a movie". Haynes came out last year.



Fury erupts with the release of Disney's live-action *Beauty And The Beast*, because it includes a "gay moment". In one scene, Gaston (Luke Evans, above) and his man servant LeFou dance together. Malaysia refuses the film's release. Russia gives it a 16+ rating, meaning adult-only. Some religious groups in the US boycot the movie.



RuPaul (above) says the Trump era should be a wake-up call for the LGBT community. The drag superstar says we are in danger of becoming complacent and that these political changes should rally us. "I think it's a call to action for all of the likeminded people like ourselves to get involved."





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INSPIRATIONAL SITES

A hidden gem on the Sydney harbour offers more than just great views – it inspired a whole beach brand.

IT WAS ONCE a well-kept secret, known only to locals. Now, if you can find it, Milk Beach in the exclusive Sydney suburb of Vaucluse offers a unique day out, with stunning views of the city and harbour.

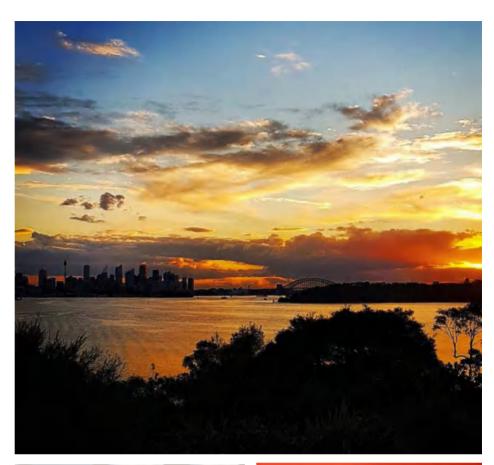
With just 50 metres of sandy beach, it can get busy on a hot summer weekend, but the broader appeal of the beach is the area's sense of privacy and history. The grounds around Milk Beach include rolling green heritage grounds and a Victorian Italianate mansion dating back to the mid-19th Century. The area served as inspiration for the recently launched brand MILKBEACH – who created the Day Towel, a luxurious and modern reinvention of the classic Australian beach towel.



There are many active ways to enjoy Milk Beach; with walking trails and heritage listed sites the entire area provides plenty to do and see.

The best time to visit Milk Beach is between October and the end of March. However, many a winter's day can be enjoyed on a picnic blanket with some bubbly, provided the sun is out. There are more active ways to make the most of the area; with walking trails and heritage listed sites the entire area provides plenty to do and see. Getting there can take a bit of researching but once found, it's easy to revisit.

Check out some of the snaps the guys at MILKBEACH have on their Instagram account @milkbeachsydney. The brand's goal is to not only provide a high-fashion choice for beach accessories but also a socially conscious one, ensuring all materials are sustainable and responsibly sourced. Shop for them exclusively online www.milkbeach.com.au.











And The Award Goes To...

THE FIRST Australian LGBTI Awards were held on March 2 at a gala event at the Sydney Opera House.

Categories open to nominations were diverse and ranged from Hero, Sportsperson, Role Model, Broadcaster, Politician and Journalist to corporate awards for Brand/Organisation, Employee Network and Travel Destination.

Notable winners on the night included Victoria's Gender And Sexuality Commissioner Rowena Allen (Hero), soccer player Michelle Heyman (Sportsperson), TV and radio personality Julie McCrossin (Broadcaster), Labor upper-house senator Penny Wong (Politician), actress Lucy Lawless (Ally), and actress Ruby Rose (Celebrity). SBS was awarded the Brand Award for their outstanding commitment to broadcast diversity.

Music journalist and TV presenting legend, Ian "Molly" Meldrum was given the Lifetime Achievement Award, but not before an altercation with actor Samuel Johnson (who played Meldrum in the *Molly* bio-mini-series). Molly made a gracious but mumbled acceptance speech in his trademark style before whipping off his pants to reveal rainbow tights beneath. Always the entertainer.

MORE: www.australianlgb tiawards.com.au



















PHOTOGRAPHY ANDREW STUBBERSFIED

The Most Popular Place to Watch Adult Movies





KATIE NOONAN AND KARIN SCHAUPP - SONGS OF THE LATIN SKIES

Here's what Katie did next! The Aussie songstress has teamed up again with guitarist pal Karin Schaupp to croon and swoon their way through the Latin American songbook. That means a gaggle of exquisite jazz and classical pieces from the musical masters of South America or, to put it simply, mucho bossa nova, samba, salsa and tango. "In this, our third release together, I feel like Karin and I have made our best work yet," Katie insists. "Playing with Karin is like floating on a gorgeous cloud. It is such a pleasure to make music together and this new selection of beautiful songs has been our most comfortable musical home yet." The good news is the duo are touring their new Latina diva album throughout Australia (as part of the Spiegeltent) over the coming few months.

PETE TONG - CLASSIC HOUSE

Here's an example of a great idea gone hideously wrong. The aim was to give a clutch of rave faves a classical music makeover. Somewhere the plot got lost (dare we suggest "disco damaged"!) and the result is something that's a little bit dance-y, a little bit classical, but a whole lotta Muzak. It's the sort of thing you recoil from in horror when



the original artists are dismissed and their songs so watered down they might literally have been murdered. Moby's *Porcelain* and *Go*, Inner City's *Good Life* and Faithless' *Insomnia* all make the hit list and are gunned down. *Classic House* makes you appreciate the originals.

SAMPHA - PROCESS

Beyonce writes an album about bittersweet spouses on *Lemonade*. Her younger sister Solange writes a better one with *A Seat At The Table*. All things considered, it must be time for a new voice, and a black male one at that, to connect with our pain about life in this post-Trump chaos. Sampha, also one name only, is a late twenties British artist who's worked with both Bey and



Sol so already there's a familial connection. Like the Knowles gals, he's überstressed with modern life, but gives it a beautiful voice. As someone who hangs out with Drake (musically only, sadly) and The xx, Sampha is destined for fame in that zone Frank Ocean zealously keeps to himself.

ÁSGEIR - AFTERGLOW

My iTunes lists this album as "alternative" so someone is trying to tell us this is disquieting music that doesn't fit easily any category. It's bravely many steps away from the Icelandic singer/songwriter's sumptuous debut *In The Silence* four years ago. That had the lyrical assistance of John Grant; its elegant and elegiac

.....



single *Going Home* a devastatingly haunting piece of music. *Afterglow* is the artist in experimental mode, not crowd-pleasing form. With an abstract, harsh and chilly Reykjavik air to it, Ásgeir's sophomore album is like hearing a sodden and sullen Adele swallowed by a geyser after getting neutered. The hipster alternative crowd might dig this, but we fear this difficult record will only deliver afterburn.

VARIOUS - ARMADA ACOUSTIC

Armada Music is a European label specialising in dance music, specifically of the electronic type that can blow through your eardrums more intensely than any Mediterranean island breeze. Mercifully, the Euro-powers that be there have devised a 50-track bundle of laidback, acoustic versions of their dancefloor fillers to help you



rest your weary minds and feet. Some of the biggest EDM tunes of the last decade now sport a more chilled vibe here from Armin van Buuren (who kicks off the album with *This Is What It Feels Like*), Dash Berlin, Cosmic Gate and plenty more. Sophie Ellis-Bextor, Emma Hewitt and Kelly Llorenna also get to show-off their vocal chops. Welcome to this year's essential "recovery record". Deep breath... *ahhhhhh*.



Bielfield: Yes. Originally, it was much slower. I wrote for her voice and wanted it to have some Miami influence and, thanks to Courtney, some Ace Of Base elements crept in!

Dance Again references George Michael's Careless Whisper; is it true you thought he was a black, female singer?

It's true and super embarrassing! I thought he was this black lady forever! Then I saw a picture of George Michael and was like, "What?!" I think he'd quite like that. His death was so sad. I did a George Michael tribute night with Brendan Maclean.

Did Brendan ask you to perform any kinky sex acts in his next video?

Well, I don't think that is off brand! I have a lot of respect for him. I tried to watch his House Of Air video but I couldn't get through the whole thing. He's out-there as a person, too. Respect.

Any plans to mash up Dance Again and Careless Whisper?

You might be picking up on the scent of something that is happening as we speak!

You're also an opera singer, having just finished performing in Handel's Messiah. How do you balance the two careers?

It's incredibly challenging. When I first went into pop from classical I had a hard time because everyone categorised me and didn't want to work with me. They said, "Why wouldn't you

do classical?" Now people are more receptive to what I'm doing. It's weird that people are so biased about music and it sucks because I don't see it like that. I went electropop and created a new brand under the name Bielfield so now people see me as two different things, even if they like both.

Do you ever feel the need to burst out into opera when you're performing as Bielfield?

That's the thing; I have sung things live an octave higher in a classical technique and when you experience my voice live the reaction is extreme. People who hear me in person understand it all as a joint project. I want my music to have some classical element to it without it being crossover.

Is there a game plan for your career, or careers, now? I'm working on a full album, which is going to be rather eclectic.

Whose career would you want to emulate?

Madonna. In Australia, certain eccentricities are frowned upon, whereas in other places they

"I wasn't a religious fan but I watched Courtney's whole season. I thought she should've won. Bianca Del Rio won and she's someone I really like, but she's a comedian. Maybe it's a blond thing!"

are supported and seen as unique. That's made it hard for me to be the entertainer I want to be. I may have to change location - this is the deciding year.

We have to ask... are you and Courtney dating? [Giggles] Courtney and I have been very close at certain times throughout the last year. I think she had an interest right now in California. An interest in me? I don't know. She was showing me some pictures and I was like, "Okay, yeah!" but it could never work.

Why not?

[Laughs] I'm far too beautiful!

What do you look like in drag?

Oh man, it would be a disaster. There's no way I could wear highheels on a runway. I'm such a ditz. One drag queen in a relationship is probably enough!

MORE: Dance Again is released through Sony Music Australia. For more on Bielfield find him on www.bielfield.com





IN 1962, Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf? was billed as the "most praised, most talked about and most exciting play of the year." It more than lived up to its hype and became an awardwinning theatre sell-out. Written by Edward Albee, what distinguishes this piece is the engaging, raw human emotion drawn from its characters in a lively and clever script.

Similar to the works of Tennessee Williams and Arthur Miller (and pre-empted in the dialogue of Shakespeare's *Taming Of The Shrew*), *Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf?* delves into the human psyche, exposing the innermost secrets, anguish and torment of its characters. Albee, who happened to be gay, created a story that takes a cynical dig at conventional life in the Cold War era, and still resonates today.

The story's two protagonists are George and Martha, a middle-aged college professor and his wife, who invite the newest young faculty member Nick, and wife Honey, over for drinks. But their bickering and discord quickly consumes their guests and a friendly cocktail evening becomes a psychological rollercoaster ride of antagonistic and traumatic mind games.

While many will be familiar with the classic 1966 movie, superbly cast with Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor, the play has experienced many revivals including memorable performances by Kathleen Turner and Bill Irwin



A friendly cocktail evening becomes a psychological rollercoaster ride of antagonistic mind games.

in 2005 and Amy Morton and Tracy Letts in 2010. The current production on London's West End has theatre lovers falling over themselves to grab a seat.

Imelda Staunton (*Pride* and *Harry Potter*) has stepped into the shoes of Martha. Conleth Hill, currently very famous as the spymaster Varys on *Game Of Thrones*, is George. Playing the roles of the handsome young Nick is Luke Treadaway (*The Hollow Crown*) and Imogen Poots (*Filth*) as his innocent wife, Honey.

As expected, Staunton's robust and combative energy works well in Martha. She can twist her character's fiery emotion from downright nasty into a pitiful woman on the edge of breakdown. Audiences swing wildly from loving to loathing Martha, as do the other characters in this long, yet gripping play.

The current production has fulfilled the high expectations that audiences and critics have of this work. *The Guardian* says, "play,

performance and production perfectly coalesce." Paul Taylor of *The Independent* believes Imelda Staunton's performance is one of the greatest feats of acting he's witnessed. It is directed by the noted James McDonald with a detailed set designed by Tom Pye.

Considering the play's length, credit is due to any cast who takes on such an intense theatrical performance. Broken down into three acts (*Fun And Games, Walpurgisnacht* and *The Exorcism*), each run an hour with two interval breaks. Snaps for simply memorizing the script.

The unique quality of Albee's play is its engaging beats of witty dialogue and the crackling energy it creates between characters. It pulsates, and its suspense keeps audiences fixated and wide-eyed.

This production of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* brings credit not only to the cast and crew but also to Albee's original objective. The drama unfolds as emotions awaken inside its characters – and audiences. It's exhausting but worth every minute.

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? is playing at London's Harold Pinter Theatre. An Australian revival opens in May at the Ensemble Theatre, Sydney starring Genevieve Lemon and Darren Gilshenan.

MORE: whosafraidofvirginiawoolf.co.uk



JAMES FRANCO

ZACHARY QUINTO



"FRANCO'S PERFORMANCE IS *UNDENIABLE*"

THE UPCOMING

"FRANCO DOES HIS FINEST WORK SINCE 127 HOURS"

SASHA BRONNER HUFFINGTON POST

FROM EXECUTIVE PRODUCER GUS VAN SANT



THREE HIDDEN HISTORIES REVEAL THEIR ENIGMATIC PROTAGONISTS THROUGH SEX, ART AND CROSSDRESSING.

DAYS WITHOUT END By Sebastian Barry

The American Civil War and a gay, cross-dressing soldier seem unlikely subjects for this esteemed Irish novelist, yet Barry has taken them on and triumphed. The book has been highly praised by reviewers



and recently scooped the 2017 Costa Book Of The Year Award.

Barry explained recently in an extensive interview in *The Guardian* that he drew on his own gay son, Toby in fleshing out the sexuality of the main character, John McNulty. "It was more that the book drew it in rather than me putting it in," Barry says. "I was very impressed by the subtlety, the delicacy and the intricacy of the love between Toby and his boyfriend..."

The unshakeable core of *Days Without End* is the love between McNulty and Handsome John Cole and everything in that relationship Barry learned from his son. This relationship is so beautifully developed that the reader is irresistibly seduced. However, the book's other great strength is its narrative voice, which sweeps the reader along from the first chapter on an extraordinary, though harrowing, journey.

Thomas McNulty escapes the great famine in Ireland and survives an unspeakably hellish sea voyage to America, only to be thrown into a fresh hell – the life of a soldier during the Civil War. His one source of comfort and companionship is Handsome John Cole. They encounter one another under a hedge in a downpour and a lifelong bond is born. They find their way to a mining town, Daggsville and answer a saloon's advertisement for "clean boys". The work is "just dancing" albeit in women's clothes. John bristles at the notion but the pay and conditions are too enticing.

For two years they work the saloon, until "the bloom wore off us". John Cole grew so tall it became impossible to find dresses for him so the pair are obliged to move on. They join up together as soldiers and from this point the backdrop of struggle and hardship takes a bloody and savage turn. Their chief duty involves clearing the West for whites and their regular grisly skirmishes with the Native Americans makes for difficult reading. Yet from this violence, an unlikely family

emerges. In an all-too-brief period of peace, Thomas, John and a young Sioux orphan girl, Winona make a home together in the mid-West. Thomas, once again, adopts female attire for the stage but finds he likes to wear it all the time. He has a maternal relationship with Winona and, given the *berdaches* in her own people, this crossdressing is not so strange to her. Thomas and John even manage to wed. Recounting the plot may make it sound unlikely, even far-fetched, but reading the novel it is anything but. That is the accomplishment of Sebastian Barry, who has really produced something exceptional and distinctive.



Bux is infatuated by Pete's "rockmelon ass" and the "milk jelly smooth muscle" of his forearms.

DOWN THE HUMEBy Peter Polites

Polites came to readers' attention when he edited the groundbreaking anthology Ornaments From Two Countries: GLBTIQ Stories Of Difference From Western Sydney And Regional NSW in



2013. His first novel, *Down The Hume* is also set in the western suburbs of Sydney. This immediately gives the book a uniqueness and is a fascinating setting for a gay-themed Sydney novel.

The narrator, Bux is a young Greek-Australian who works as an aged care nursing assistant. He has a boyfriend, Nice Arms Pete – though it might be more accurate to describe him as Pete's "fuck toy". They live together in Greenacre, a suburb near Bankstown and Lakemba. Polites knows this particular world intimately. He describes the local "bowlo" where Bux used to work, invaded by pokie machines, "the leagues club with its fake rock three-tiered waterfall that spewed flames hourly at night," and the "glammas in Lorna Jane, full face of make-up, living the dream and working off excess pregnancy weight between cigarettes." Then there's the "white flight" from the suburb, abandoning it to the "wogs."

Nice Arms Pete is a devotee of the gym and his body has its share of devotees. Bux is slavishly infatuated with "his rockmelon ass" and the "milk jelly smooth muscle" of his forearms, but is also intensely jealous and suspicious. Pete is subject to roid rage and Bux's teasing taunts can be met with a fist in the face, though sometimes Pete might dole out a couple of painkillers afterwards to make up for it.

Polites' writing style is spare and abrupt, littered with abbreviations, pop culture references and occasional fragments of Greek language text, which most readers won't understand but which the context generally gives the thrust of. It's an arresting and individual debut that gives voice to a tribe often passed over by Sydney's inner-city gay elite.

GAY GOTHAM: ART AND UNDERGROUND CULTURE IN NEW YORK By Donald

Albrecht

This book has been published to accompany an exhibition of the same name at the Museum Of The City



of New York. However, this is not merely a catalogue of the exhibition but a substantive, illustrated history in its own right, and published in a handsome hardcover coffee table edition by Rizzoli.

More than 200 fascinating and illuminating images are featured – both works of art, such as paintings and photographs, as well as letters, snapshots and ephemera.

There are extensive sections devoted to the likes of George Platt Lynes, Leonard Bernstein, Andy Warhol, Robert Mapplethorpe and Keith Haring, but there are also fascinating lesser known figures and works of art featured. One is a feature on Charles Demuth and his painting *Turkish Bath With Self Portrait* (1918), most likely inspired by his visits to the Lafayette Baths, one of a network of baths catering to gay men at that time.

Another section is devoted to the Harlem Spring (1928 to 1932) and the works of artist, writer and actor Richard Bruce Nugent and photographer Carl van Vechten. Although art may predominate, attention is paid to drag culture, sex and cruising, and the nightlife scene, with some phenomenal vintage photographs as illustrations.

MORE: The Bookshop Darlinghurst specialises in gay and lesbian books. Phone (02) 9331 1103, email: info@ thebookshop.com,au, visit thebookshop.com.au, or in person at 207 Oxford Street, Sydney.



Knowing I'm undetectable keeps me healthy and my partners safe. How do you do it?

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appearance. He does this when we are alone and when we are with others. Is he secretly jealous of me?

Dear Friend With Shade,

News Flash! This shady bitch is not your friend. Real friends lift you up, not tear you down. Real friends are happy for your triumphs and successes. This is an insecure, negative, fuckedup individual. This bitch is like a fast-moving cancer and you need to cut him out of your life.

Dear Diva,

I broke up with my boyfriend over 7 years ago. We got back in touch last year and I began to fall in love with him again. He had a girlfriend at the time. He broke up with her and we decided to give us another try. But he still hasn't told his friends about me and he has been very distant lately. I have decided to end it. I know I should forget him but I can't seem to lose these feelings I have. What should I do?

Dear Disrespected And Confused,

This motherfucker is full of shit. He's using you. He has no respect for you or your feelings. If you future together. If the dick is good, you can keep him on speed dial when you get an itch, but that's all he's good for.

Dear Diva,

One of my best friends has been very supportive during my recent break-up. We've been friends for over 10 years. I'm starting to develop romantic feelings for him. He's a great guy and I love having him in my life. Should I pursue this?

Dear Horny For My Friend,

If you really value your friendship keep your dick in your pants. If you start fucking and things end badly you could potentially lose a good friend. Good friends are hard to come by. If you have one in your lifetime you have more than your share.

Dear Diva.

My boyfriend was killed in a car accident last year. I'm having a very hard time dealing with this. He was the love of my life. I can't eat or sleep. I don't know how I'm going to go on.

If the dick is good, keep him on speed dial when you get an itch, but that is all he's good for.

Dear Lost Love,

This is a very difficult time for you and everyone grieves in different ways. If he loved you as much as you loved him he wouldn't want you in this pain. Get some grief counseling or join a grief support group and take comfort in all those precious memories that you shared with him.

MORE: Robbyne Kaamil is a relationship expert on TV, radio, and at Playgirl.com. She is also an actress, comedian and singer. Find her on FB, Twitter@theadvicediva, and email your confidential Dear Diva questions to: asktheadvicediva@gmail.com.



BBI FOUNDERS AND OPERATORS: VINKO ANTHONY AND ANDREA ZAZA

Perfectly matched, completely compatible

Beau Brummell Introductions is Australia's leading introduction agency for discerning gay men. We cater to a wide range of successful, high achieving men who are happy with their lives, but who are now looking for genuine long-term love.

Our entirely personal service gets to the heart of your tastes, interests, values and needs. We then hand select suitable matches from our comprehensive database to find you that one exceptional partner.

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THE DEPLORABLES!

Crazy stuff that real humans actually said...
Compiled by Torsten Hojer

"Mattheo and Marco... announce the end of civilization, of our tradition of the natural family..."



The Italian right-wing group Forza Nuova invites the

country to "mourn the end of civilization" because of gay marriage. They posted fliers protesting the civil partnership of two men, Mattheo and Marco, and carried a coffin draped in the Italian flag.

"This particular flag, you will realise, is the flag of the Gay And Lesbian Kingdom Of The Coral Sea Islands which declared war on Australia... it's the flag of a hostile nation."



Australian government Senator Eric Abetz says "hostile" rainbow flags should be banned from government buildings, citing a declaration of war from an unrecognised micro-nation founded by a dissatisfied Australian.

"From today I
will say... the
blasphemous
frivolity [that]
triumphed in the
Gala Drag At The
Carnaval De Las
Palmas De Gran
Canaria [is the
saddest day of my life]."



Francisco Cases Andreu, Bishop of Spain's Canary Islands, says he is sadder that a drag queen won a carnival performance competition than he was when 154 people died in an air disaster in Spain in 2008.

"I recommend that Christian parents avoid having their children recruited into the homosexual agenda... the Disney Corporation are intentionally promoting sin to



children. When we discern through the moral lens of human interaction with the demonic spirits, pride is a demonic spirit. Sexual immorality is demonic."

US Republican Gordon Klingenschmitt claims "demonic spirits" are using *Beauty And The Beast* to make kids gay.

"Our Ark is illuminated with rainbow colours in the evening as a testament to the true meaning of the rainbow... The rainbow has come to represent the



LGBTQ movement. Sadly, people ignore what God intended the rainbow to represent and proudly wave rainbow-coloured flags in defiance of God's command and design for marriage... As Christians, we need to take the rainbow back and teach our young people its true meaning."

Evangelical preacher Ken Ham on why his Creationist theme park in Kentucky illuminates a 'replica' of Noah's Ark in rainbow colours.

"Does God love homosexuals? This is a flawed question, there are no such things as homosexuals. God created male and female. There are male and females



that engage in 'unseemly' acts of immorality."

A church in the US state of Arkansas is pushing leaflets through local letterboxes aiming to "debunk some myths" about homosexuality.



MILKBEACH.COM.AU

HELLO CUP CAKE!

THIS MONTH, OUR SEXY FOODIE JORDAN BRUNO HAS SOMETHING SWEET TO SINK YOUR TEETH INTO: RED VELVET CUPCAKES.

INGREDIENTS

11/3 cups plain flour

1 cup self-raising flour

4 tablespoons cocoa powder

1 teaspoon baking soda

1½ cups sugar

1 cup all natural yogurt

1 tablespoon milk

1 tablespoon lemon juice

½ melted butter

¼ canola oil

2 eggs

3 teaspoons red food colouring

2 teaspoons white vinegar

Cream Cheese Icing:

250g cream cheese

3 teaspoons vanilla essence

METHOD

1. Preheat fan-forced oven to 180-degrees and line muffin pans with cupcake wrappers. Give them a light spray with canola oil. This makes around 18 cupcakes.

2. Sift the flours, cocoa powder and baking powder into a large bowl, then stir in the sugar.

3. In another bowl, whisk the wet ingredients (yogurt, lemon, milk, butter, oil, eggs, food colouring and vinegar) until well combined. 4. Gradually add the wet mixture to the dry mixture, stirring until it is just combined.

5. Scoop the mixture into the cupcake wrappers until they are three quarters full, bake for 20-25 minutes or until you can poke a skewer into the centre and it comes out clean.

6. To make the frosting, whisk the butter until light and fluffy, then gradually add the cream cheese in small cubes until well incorporated. Finally, start to beat in the sugar and vanilla.

7. Once cupcakes are cool smear the icing over the red velvet cupcakes and enjoy!

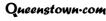
> **PHOTOGRAPHY** JORDAN'S APRON

MORE: Get The Gay Chef free from 1 cup butter, softened jordanbruno.org and donate to one of 3 cups icing sugar his LGBTI charity recipients while you're there. JUMP TO JORDAN'S Gay Chef Page TAP FOR MORE

















Other BENHALL

Fresh from *Neighbours*, Ben Hall tells **Matthew Myers** about taking the gay lead in the Australian musical *Only Heaven Knows*, and not playing his famous bush-ranging namesake.

DNA: Your character in *Only Heaven Knows* is exposed to the bohemian and gay sub-culture of 1940s Sydney. What kind of research did you do for this role?

Ben Hall: I've been watching a lot of films from that period, reading and talking to people, including our director Shaun Rennie. The script is quite revealing about the period. Tim's journey is not about coming out. Rather, he's a guy who knows what the wants and he comes to Sydney to find it. It's about discovery.

What did you draw on for the character's development?

In the theatre world I have many gay friends to talk to, particularly my co-star Hayden Tee who I've worked with before on *Les Miserables*. I did a show two years back called *Falsettos* where I played a gay man. But for me it's more about connecting with the person I'm playing opposite and finding the qualities that allow an intimate connection. I want to know the character backgrounds but that interpersonal stuff is key.

Has anything about gay life in the post-war era shocked you?

Yeah, I couldn't believe how conservative it was, particularly after the war where there was that period of joy and freedom but then the Menzies era came in and it all became so conservative again. People were being pulled out for being Communists and such. There was also the issue of conversion therapy, which has a thread in our story with the character of Alan (Matthew Backer). It's scary how commonplace that was, and how many men thought it was something they should do. Many were convinced and pushed into it.

Have you witnessed homophobia in real life?

Yes, at school. I went to an all-boys Catholic school which wasn't the place

Ben as Tim in Only Heaven Knows.



Canadian PM

IF YOU WERE GAY, WHO WOULD DO IT FOR YOU?

"I'd probably go a big muscular guy with a beard... or Justin Trudeau. I love the ideals he stands for, too."

with teachers who protected a lot of those guys and nurtured them. I guess that's part of what the arts culture is; protecting people who are treated like that. In *Only Heaven Knows*, are you concerned about how your interpretation of a gay character is going to be perceived?

Of course, but fortunately I get on so well with our director Shaun, and Matt and Hayden that I'm comfortable enough to trust them and they trust me enough to tell me if I'm doing something that isn't informed enough. They guide me, because it isn't my world *per se* and it isn't my story but I love these people. I love our team and this is a story that I want to tell to the best of my ability.

Do you ever get mistaken as gay?

I'm in musical theatre so everyone assumes I am, yes. I sometimes get hit on in clubs, especially when I'm out with Trevor Ashley! I certainly don't take offence. I love gay clubs. They're so much fun.

You must also attract a lot of teenage girls.

There's a bit of that through social media. Actually, there's a huge gay following for *Neighbours* in the UK. It's massive!

If you were gay, who would do it for you?

I think I'd probably go for a big, muscular guy with a beard

Do you know about bears, cubs and otters?Oh, yeah, I know about bears but I didn't know about otters!

Otters are still hairy but more slender with a swimmers build. In fact, you'd be an otter! [Laughing] Well, I just did the Rottnest Island channel swim last week. You know, when I think about it, I'd go for Justin Trudeau. I love the ideals

How would you sum up your experience on *Neighbours*?

he stands for.

I really enjoyed it. It's the second fastest show in the world in terms of how many episodes they pump out in a week. It's a nice working environment. People are happy and relaxed and know what they're doing. With many TV shows you're there briefly for a week and gone, but on *Neighbours* you make great friends.

You played Finton in *The Devil's Playground*. Was that a watershed moment in your career?



The Devil's Playground was harrowing. The enquiry into the Catholic Church was taking place. We'd shoot scenes and then turn on the TV to see George Pell fronting the media.

Yes, in the story my character's younger brother has committed suicide because of what was happening at the school. It was a bit harrowing, especially with the research, and it happened to be topical at the time because the enquiry into the Catholic Church was taking place. We'd shoot scenes and then I'd turn on the TV to see George Pell fronting the media. Hearing the stories of what these people had gone through made me feel disgusted. But *The Devil's Playground* was incredible to be part of, and such talented people were involved.

Studying at WAAPA is a great grounding for any actor. What's your advice for anyone wanting to enter the industry?

I recommend drama school because it's incredibly useful at opening doors. Sometimes all you need is that opportunity. Getting into those schools is not as easy as it seems. You also have to spend money, which is a bit of an issue. A lot of actors are either middle- or upper-middle class because of the cost of the training, which is a shame.

Jack Martin (*Home And Away*) recently played your namesake, the famous Australian bushranger in *The Legend Of Ben Hall*. Did you consider auditioning for that role?

It would have been very trippy, especially if I'd played a different character! At the time I was in *Les Mis* so I was contracted for a certain period

but I would've loved to have played my namesake. I've always wanted to visit his grave and know more about him. He was the only bushranger who never hurt or killed anyone. So he's a nice one to be associated with. He's of no relation, though, as my dad's British.

Who is your diva?

Beyoncé. Those pregnancy photos were classic. You can't go wrong with that voice. *Single Ladies* is brilliant.

Do you have a more local diva?

That would have to be Trevor Ashley. I love *Diamonds Are For Trevor*!

What music gets you on the dance floor?

I like R&B rather than techno. I do like some Village People, and I can do a bit of the *YMCA* dance!

Who has been the biggest influence on your professional career?

There's usually someone on each show who becomes a bit of a mentor. Simon Gleeson in *Les Mis* is one of those people, and so was Simon Burke on *The Devil's Playground*, who I'd watch and ask questions. On this current production I'm inspired by Shaun Rennie's work and his passion.

This is DNA's Sports edition. What do you do to keep fit?

I've been training for the Rottnest swim, so I swim every couple of days, and back on *Neighbours* I was seeing a personal trainer because I was doing a lot of shirtless stuff around the pool. Gym and swimming are great because you can put the muscle on and then sort of lean it out.

What's your best piece of health advice?

I'm really interested in gut health and the benefits of probiotics. Recent research has shown that it affects your happiness and serotonin levels.

At the beach are you boardies or speedos?

I'm boardies at the beach and speedos in the pool. You go a lot faster when you're swimming in speedos. And what about underwear – jocks, fitted boxers or freeballs?

I love that freeballing is one of the options! I go for fitted boxers. I'm sure my mate Chris Durling is a freeballer. On *Les Mis* he'd strip off in the dressing room and I'd be, "Mate, did you even wear jocks today?"

When he did this interview he said that while on *Les Mis* a hairpin fell down his pants and into his arse crack!

Hilarious. That explains a lot!

MORE: Only Heaven Knows plays at Sydney's Hayes Theatre from May 26. Go to www.hayestheatre.com.au



How I Raised \$30,000 In A Month To Help Gay Youth

According to Beyond Blue, same-sex attracted Australians suffer up to 14 times higher rates of suicide attempts than heterosexuals. Fearing his own sexuality as a youth, David Jones, founder and CEO of David Jones Electricians, believed he had to either cure or kill himself. He explains how he raised funds for StartOut, a charity that connects mentors to teenagers of diverse sexualities and genders. As told to **Munyarukumbuzi Emmanuel**.



s a teenager, I had vowed to do whatever I could do to cure my homosexuality and if I couldn't, the solution would be to take my own life. The need to conform probably made me sleep with more women. I owe an apology to a fair few women because I realise now that I was using them to have another go.

I reached out to Lifeline asking for a cure for homosexuality and I was referred to a psychologist or sex therapist. Back in the early 1980s conversion therapy was in vogue. The psychologist took my money and didn't really deliver. I could have done without her and, instead, benefitted from more guidance along the way, at least to see things from different perspectives. It would have been good if Lifeline had referred me to an organisation like StartOut.

Adam Dent created StartOut with a mate of his because he saw the need for kids of diverse sexualities and genders [DSG] in rural Australia to be able talk with a mentor. Fifty thousand dollars would be needed to create StartOut's platform and, despite their best efforts, things weren't exactly going great.





I was ready to go as far as I could reasonably go to raise funds to help those kids who might otherwise take their lives.

When I met with Adam, November was coming up and I said I would do a fundraising challenge that month. I embarked on a 30-push-ups-a-day challenge to raise \$30,000 in donations in 30 days. I knew it was a bit of a stretch to reach my target, but by the end of November, I exceeded my target! We clocked over \$30,340 in donations to build a platform, website and app through which young people in rural Australia could access mentors.

Throughout the whole process I was happily surprised. I received a huge amount of support from the straight community. It was a bit of a shock. Everyone commented on what a great cause it was to get behind. Most people knew someone who had committed suicide, and suspected or knew they were gay. This issue is touching a lot of people. It certainly got people thinking and donating money.

To raise the funds, I did 30 push-ups and posted them on Facebook, my boxer dog pulling my ears

for the first few days – he got quite a following! Then people sponsored me to mention their business for \$100, then in undies for \$100, then shirtless for \$100 and that got the ball rolling for people to give me new challenges. Among other things I was asked to do push-ups on the Harbour Bridge, wear a pink tutu, do my pre-speech in Auslan sign language, do it in French – I made a dog's breakfast of that [laughs]. I was sponsored \$1,000 for dying my hair green, and given another \$1,000 for doing it in a Santa suit. I got most of my staff to do it with me on two occasions. I did 30 push-ups inside a semi-inflated hot air balloon, with a six-week old baby strapped to my chest, in a wrestler's mankini, and between the Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander flags.

Other tactics I used to raise the funds included involving business networks by attending events and letting people know what I was doing. I also encouraged personal connections to donate to the cause and even advertised businesses on my personal Facebook page to get donations.

Anyone has the ability to do what I have done. It is all about knowing what your strengths are. I am a good communicator and businessman. I leveraged my business connections to reach my goals. I was ready to go as far as I could reasonably go to raise funds to help those kids who might otherwise take their lives.

I decided to keep the green hair for a few weeks. It was a great conversation starter. One guy asked me why I had green hair and I told him the whole story. He reached into his wallet and gave me \$50. The green hair has also attracted some intolerance. Another man asked me how

old I was, intimating that at my age I shouldn't have green hair. That was a wake-up call that we still need to fight for acceptance of difference no matter what that difference is.

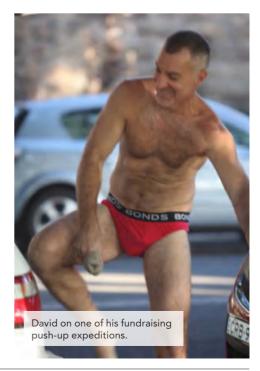
As a teenager, I would have loved to talk to somebody like me; someone who would understand and tell me that it is okay to be different. Now that the money to build the platform has been raised, I'm looking forward to receiving training on how to mentor kids and recruit more mentors (some of my friends are interested), and to see where the experience takes me.

The focus of StartOut is mentoring young people. I will try and take that a bit further and talk to parents struggling with the sexuality of their children. Most of these parents are now my age, which makes it easier for me to reach out to them. I would also like to build bridges between groups that provide similar services to the community. This might be as simple as organising a meeting between Camp Out or Twenty 10 and StartOut to discuss ways of collaborating together.

Accountability is also important for me. I raised funds for StartOut and it is important for me to show people what we achieved with their money in a transparent way. I intend to spend time doing that. *



More: Visit www.startout.org.au





SWEAT!

PHOTOGRAPHY CHRISTIAN SCOTT (INSTAGRAM @CHRISTIANSCOTT)
WWW.STUDIOCHRISTIANSCOTT.COM
MODEL JACOB WOODHOUSE
AGENCY PLATFORM ME (INSTAGRAM @PLATFORM_ME)

DNA's cover boy this month, Jacob Woodhouse was born to be a sporting star. His passion for rugby developed early. In 2009, he represented Australia at the Schoolboys International Rugby Competition in England, Ireland and Wales.

He went on to play First Grade Eastern Suburbs rugby, was included in Australia's under 20s team at the World Championship in Italy in 2011, and has played professionally for Manly RUFC, the Doncaster Knights in England and Petrarca Padova in Italy, among others.

Now 25, Jacob has graduated with a BA in Health And Movement. He manages his time developing a career in building, construction and development, semi-professional rugby and modelling. He is a star in the rise.



















SET THE LOOK!

JACOB WEARS LUNCH MENSWEAR BRIEF.









JACOB WEARS GARCON MODEL WATSON JOCK.

JACOB WEARS
AUSSIE ESSENCE
TANK TOP
AND STUD ME
UP OTTO RED
JOCKSTRAP.









PLAYING HARD

After years teaching fitness classes, Dane Brocas realised he knew exactly what men wanted... versatile fitnesswear. With plenty of sweat (but very little blood and tears) he's launched his own brand, Gear Sportswear.

DNA: Where does your passion for creating sportswear come from?

Dane Brocas: I spent over eight years teaching group fitness classes. Because the exercises and movements in these classes are so varied, I needed gear that was versatile but I discovered that these products were difficult to find. And I was often approached by guys in the classes who asked where they could find that sort of gear, too. So, I thought, imagine if I could create a brand where men could find everything they need – in one place – regardless of how they train. And Gear Sportswear was born.

It's important for brands to engage with their community. Do you have a philosophy around engagement?

It's critical to be involved in your community in any way possible. This year our big focus was to be part of the Sydney Gay And Lesbian Mardi Gras. We partnered with Gay Sydney Australia – a not-for-profit volunteer organisation who believe in social acceptance, diversity, tolerance – no discrimination and no hate. Their aim is to



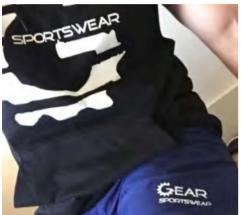
provide a social hub for people all over the world who identify as part of the LGBTQI community. We were at Mardi Gras Fair Day and engaged with our customers first hand – something we don't get to do often being part of an online platform. However you engage with your community it has to be positive and with the best possible intent.



It's great that the label comes from your actual gym experience. Do you play any sports as well?

I wouldn't consider myself a "sportsman" but exercise is an integral part of my lifestyle and has always been. That vibe, the energy and the social elements are infectious – I can't get enough. I train regularly with a personal trainer who











We are all on this quest for health and fitness together, so take out your headphones and say hi to the sweaty, puffing mess next to you!

motivates me to exceed my expectations but I also train alone and, more importantly, outdoors wherever possible. There are many amazing opportunities to train outdoors with beautiful coastal walks and parks.

There are a lot of sportswear brands around. What's the Gear Sportswear point of difference?

We're a brand designed by men exclusively for men, passionately creating hassle-free and easy-to-style products that help men train... and still look good.

On that, we all like to look sexy when we exercise even though we're sweaty, puffing, and red in face! Is it possible?

Oh, yes! Our favourite people are sweaty and red-faced!

Is form as important as function in the Gear Sportswear range?

Yes, we aim for a happy medium – how can we maximise each product's appearance and performance? When our customers say they want a running short, that they don't *just* want a running short. They want somethings that's

lightweight, well tailored with four-way stretch that allows them to move freely when squatting or lunging together with handy pockets for stowing valuables that still looks great at a casual Sunday brunch. We want our products to go beyond the gym floor so we purposefully pick masculine and seasonal colours – and

silhouettes – to compliment any wardrobe or individual style.

Sportswear can be a bit generic. Some people like that because they don't want to stand out at the gym, but some people like to express their individuality; any tips?

Simply, "Do you." If you don't want to stand out, pick dark, block colours – classic pieces that are easily styled and co-ordinated. But if you want to stand out, choose brighter colours and don't be afraid to play with fabrics and textures to really elevate your look. Remember that sportswear as a fashion culture is all about self-expression.

Do you test your gear on yourselves?

Absolutely! That's the most exciting part of what we do! When we receive our samples, we spend about three months testing them rigorously. Each product is washed and worn to regular and varied workouts – yoga, running, weight lifting. We give the products to our families, friends and other fitness professionals so that we get the most honest and varied feedback possible.

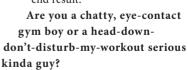
Do you have a stand out "hero" product that everyone loves?

Can we only pick one? Our cotton tanks are definitely our best-selling item. They're really

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Surely a man who runs thousands of kilometres, swims underwater and occasionally flys is a superhero. That's 29-year-old Ultramarathon runner Andrew Hedgman. He tells **Andrew M Potts** what it's like to be openly gay and vegan in one of the world's toughest sports.

DNA: What is the technical definition of an Ultramarathon and what sets it apart from other kinds of foot racing?

Andrew Hedgman: An Ultramarathon is any race that is longer than a marathon, which is 42.2 kilometres. Races usually fall between 50 and 160 kilometres. There are a lot of multistage Ultramarathons that span over the course of a few days with different distances each day, the shortest day could be 10 kilometres and the longest day 100 kilometres.

In your experience, what sort of people are attracted to Ultramarathon running?

Most of the people I've met during races are only there to complete the race, no matter how long it takes them. It's almost always a personal challenge to see how far they can push their body and mind and to achieve something that not many people ever contemplate.

What you got into Ultramarathon running in the first place?

I was gaining weight and was unfit in my early twenties. When I was in high school I was running half-marathons and even completed a full marathon. I hated myself for throwing all that away and barely being able to run a single kilometre. So I decided to get back into running to regain my fitness, found out about Ultramarathon running, and entered my first race. I trained for seven months and completed my first ever 100 kilometre road race. After that I was hooked!

What have been some of the highlights of your racing career so far?

Running the length of New Zealand in 2010 was one of the toughest things I've ever done. It's 2,200 kilometres and took me 28 days to complete. I was still pretty new to that kind of running so I was still quite inexperienced. I'm still amazed that I did that!

Running from Brisbane to Sydney in 2012 was a great 1,000 kilometre, 15-day run. I raised money for animal welfare and finished on my 25th birthday at the Sydney Opera House.

The Lycian Way Ultramarathon in Turkey and

the Kalahari Augrabies Extreme Marathon in

South Africa were both seven-day races and self-sufficient meaning the runners had to carry all of our gear and food during the race for the entire week! Both courses were crazy and I had many issues during both. But I made the top ten in both races and met some life-long friends through both events.

At what age did you realise you were attracted to other guys and what was your coming out process like?

I always knew I was attracted to guys but it was tough to get used to because of the community I grew up in; a small rural town in New Zealand. It wasn't until I moved out of my town and did some travelling that I started to accept it myself and not until I moved to Australia at 21 that I finally accepted who I was. I only needed to tell a couple of very close friends. Everyone else usually just figures it out as they get to know me. Do you think being openly gay has ever been a barrier to getting sponsors for you?

It's never come up with them. I have a good relationship with my sponsors. It's always been very casual and friendly. Buff headwear has been with me from the very start and Hoka OneOne shoes came on board when I did my Brisbane

to Sydney run, so did Zensah who do compression clothing. Just recently I joined up with FE Sports who provide me with great things like Skratch Labs sports drink.

How gay friendly is Ultramarathon running as a sport and has your sexuality ever come up as an issue?

Ultramarathon running attracts a very diverse community, so it's very rare that I meet a runner that isn't friendly. The only time it really comes up is if my boyfriend Neil is crewing for me and another runner asks about him – then I let them know. The

reaction has only ever been positive! I'm certain that if something negative was said the other runners and crew would not have any of that.

How disciplined do you need to be with your diet and training in preparing for a race and do you need much of a support team?

I really only have to be careful with my diet when I'm not training. When I'm in training I have to consume many calories as I burn so many during the week, so I need to break the habit when I take a break. I eat a vegan diet so a lot of tofu and protein shakes.

It isn't until I get to the peak of training when it starts getting really tough. Trying to run 30 to 40 kilometres before or after work can get very tiring fast so I have to plan things well.

I can do an Ultramarathon without a crew as they usually have aid stations dotted along the course of the race. Having a support crew does help a lot though, and if I'm able to I will definitely choose to have one. One or two people are all that's really needed on a support crew.



Get out of your comfort zone and take a risk.

Think of something that you never thought you would ever do and aim for it.





What does your partner think of your involvement in Ultramarathon racing?

Neil loves that I do it and has supported me a lot in races and was my support crew for my Brisbane to Sydney run – he drove and stopped every 10 kilometres all the way to Sydney over 15 days!

How did you guys meet?

We met at a club in Brisbane one night in 2010. He'd come from a dress-up party and

was dressed as Ash from Pokemon. We got on really well and have been together ever since. He always knows how to make me laugh! He is a freelance artist and has worked in the animation industry. He's extremely talented and always busy with new projects.

What's the next Ultramarathon that you plan to conquer?

There are so many I would love to do around the world. My next one is the Ultra Trail Australia, a 100 kilometre race in the Blue Mountains. I did that last year and almost didn't finish. I have already booked in a race early next year in Fiji – The Lost Island Ultra, a 220 kilometre, five stage race. I'd love to race in the jungle in South America. There are a couple of races in Antarctica, and some brutal races in the United States. Hopefully I can get through some of those!

You're also a licenced scuba diver and skydiver – you must love extremes!

I skydived and scubadived quite a bit before starting Ultramarathon running. Once I got right into the sport, everything else went on hold as I was financing everything myself and it was all getting a bit crazy. I always loved being under

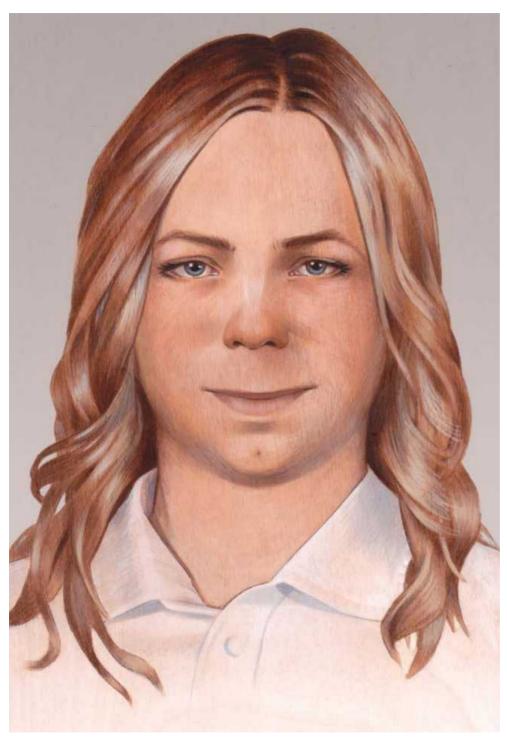
the canopy with skydiving and so I will be getting my paragliding licence in the next few weeks to get my feet back in the air. I want to start up my own adventure blog and incorporate both my running and paragliding into it. It would be great to bring a camera and record both to get the two different views of the scenery that I get to experience.

Is there any message that you'd like to pass on to our readers?

One thing I like to encourage others to do is to try and get out of your comfort zone and take a risk. Think of something that you never thought you would ever do and aim for it. Whether you succeed or

not doesn't matter; you will have lived and learned from the journey. Only a handful of people had run the length of New Zealand before me so I was inexperienced and had everything thrown at me along the way. If I had listened to the people who told me I was being unrealistic I may have never continued on my Ultramarathon journey.

MORE: Follow Andrew's adventures on Facebook or at AndrewHedgman.com



TO FREEDOM

Chelsea Manning leaves Fort Leavenworth prison this May. Her life, to date, has been extraordinary. The Iraq and Afghanistan war logs she passed to WikiLeaks revealed shocking information about the operations of the US military. Additionally, her personal life and gender transition make her one of the most intriguing LGBTI people of the modern era. In this profile, Andrew M Potts looks at her formative early life, her crimes and how she committed them, the US Army's baffling responses to her, and what the future may hold for the world's most famous and most incarcerated whistleblower.

n January 17, in one of his final acts before leaving office, President Barack Obama announced the commutation of Chelsea Manning's 35-year-prison sentence for her violation of the United States Espionage Act.

"I feel very comfortable that justice has been served," Obama said at his final White House press conference the following day, "Let's be clear: Chelsea Manning has served a tough prison sentence."

Had Manning been made to serve the full length of her sentence she would have left prison in 2045, aged 57. Had federal prosecutors had their way she would not have been released until 2070. Many on the political right in America had called for her execution – something which she qualified for under the Espionage Act. Without Obama's pardon, with good behaviour and the earliest possible release date, Manning would have still have faced another year in prison and a staggering 45 years on parole under the scrutiny of the military justice system.

Now when Manning gets out on May 17 she can breath a sigh of relief as she begins her life afresh – though she will always remembered as the longest serving prosecuted whistleblower in US history.

"[I don't think] the average person who is thinking about disclosing vital classified information would think that it goes unpunished," Obama said in answer to critics of the decision to commute Manning's sentence. "I don't think [they] would get that impression from the sentence that Chelsea Manning has served."

Just days earlier, Wikileaks founder Julian Assange had announced he would hand himself over to US authorities if Manning was granted clemency, despite what he said was the unconstitutionality of the Department Of Justice case against him over his role in publishing Manning's intelligence leaks. Assange has not honoured that offer and the White House has denied that it played any role in the decision to grant Manning's commutation.

Having gender transitioned, Manning will begin her new life as a woman. She has undergone the entire process of transitioning while confined to the United States Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas – an all-male military prison.

Her family and supporters are already preparing the way for her and have crowdfunded over \$90,000 on GoFundMe to help ease her transition into the free world.

"The majority of Chelsea's adult life has been spent under the control of powerful institutions," the Welcome Home Chelsea campaign said in launching their appeal in February. "For the first time in her life, Chelsea will have the opportunity to live freely as her authentic self, to grow her hair, engage with her friends, and build her own networks of love and support. We want her to have the tools to do that and to overcome the years of abuse she has experience in custody."

Until her release, Manning's only contact with the outside world is through books and newspapers, through heavily vetted postal correspondence, over the telephone with her lawyers, and through visits from a small list of people she nominated at the start of her sentence. Perhaps, understandably, given the nature of her crimes, Manning has been banned from accessing the internet – though she tweets and blogs via notes that are carried out of Fort Levenworth by intermediaries.

Prior to her arrest Manning expressed her concerns about being misgendered in the media, telling a confidant, "I wouldn't mind going to prison for the rest of my life, or being executed so much if it wasn't for the possibility of having pictures of me... plastered all over the world press... as boy."

But the media are barred from visiting Manning and under her terms of incarceration, no one is allowed to photograph her. The only image we have to get an impression of her appearance today is a portrait by the artist Alicia Neal, which Manning has approved.

When Manning is released she will first go to visit her fraternal aunt in Maryland, though she has also been invited to live with her Welsh and Scottish relatives in the UK.

We have no word on how she plans to support herself on the outside, though studying for a



political science degree in prison and her blogging for *The Guardian* suggests she has a future as an author and political commentator ahead of her.

A TROUBLED CHILD

Chelsea Manning was born on December 17, 1987 in Oklamhoma City to a Welsh mother, Susan, and an American father, Brian. They named her Bradley Edward Manning and raised her as a boy.

Manning's father Brian had joined the United States Navy in 1974 at the age of 19 and became an intelligence officer. Brian met Chelsea's mother while they were both shopping at a local store when he was stationed in Wales at RAF Brawdy later that decade – the exact year remains

disputed. He left the armed services to take a job as an IT manager for a rental car agency.

When Chelsea was born the family were living outside of Crescent, Oklahoma, on a five acre property where they kept pigs and chickens. Both Manning's parents had drinking problems but Susan was the worse of the two, staying home and day drinking, too drunk to drive to pick up groceries for her kids. Susan drank during the pregnancy and Manning would later be diagnosed as displaying symptoms of fetal alcohol syndrome.

Within the family, Manning's primary care giver was her sister Casey, who was eleven years her senior and who was in control of the money in the household when her father was travelling for work. >>

>> Mostly left to fend for herself, Manning developed a fascination with her father's computers, building her first website at age ten and learning to use PowerPoint. Chelsea held strong opinions from a young age, refusing to speak the words "under God" during the *Pledge Of Allegiance* at school.

When she was 11 her parents split up and Chelsea and her mother moved into a rented apartment in town. Her mother remained unstable and, in 1998, she tried to commit suicide. Casey drove her to the hospital with Chelsea on the back seat keeping her alive.

At age 13, Chelsea (then still Bradley and presenting as male) confided in a friend that she thought she was gay and was interested in boys.

When Manning's father remarried another woman (also named Susan) in 2000, Chelsea didn't take it well – particularly when her new step-brother took the Manning family name. Chelsea began to act destructively and confided to her mother that her step-brother joining the family made her feel like, "I'm nobody now."

In November 2001, Manning and her mother left the US and moved to Haverfordwest in Wales to be closer to her mother's relatives. Manning made friends at the local high school but was bullied by the boys because of her American accent and feminine personality.

An aunt told the *The Washington Post* that on a school camp the other students quietly packed up their tents in the morning while she was still asleep and left so that she woke up alone. But she continued to excel with computers and in 2003 she and a friend set up an online messaging board, AngelDyne.com, which hosted computer games and free music downloads.

However, Chelsea's mother's health was declining and she feared being trapped in the UK if something were to happen to her so, in 2005, aged 17, Manning returned to live with her father in Oklahoma City with his second wife.

Manning, now identifying openly as a gay male, applied for a job as a software developer and was hired on the spot. However, after initially settling into the job well, Chelsea's performance deteriorated, and she was fired after just four months.

Her relationship with her father's new family continued to be rocky, and in March 2006 her step-mother called the police after Maning pulled a knife during an argument about getting a job. Brian responded by telling her to leave. She drove to the neighbouring city of Tulsa, Oklahoma, initially sleeping in a pick-up truck her father had

given her before moving in with a friend.

Chelsea and her roommate got jobs at a local pizzaria but Manning was soon on the move again, first to Chicago before running out of money, then to Potomac, Maryland to stay with her father's sister Debra. In Potomac, Manning met her first boyfriend and juggled several low paying jobs while studying English and History at a local college. She left the school after just one semester after failing an exam.

YOU'RE IN THE ARMY NOW

In late 2007 Manning's father began encouraging her to join the US Army like he had, and train to be an intelligence officer, hoping that the military would give structure to her life. The idea of gaining a free college education under the GI Bill on completion of her service appealed to Manning and she dreamed of one day attaining a PhD in Physics. She later told an Army supervisor that she hoped enlisting in the military would also help her resolve her growing questions about her true gender identity.



No one suspected a thing... I listened and lip-synched to Lady Gaga's *Telephone* while exfiltrating possibly the largest data spillage in American history.

Manning began basic training at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri in October, 2007 but it quickly became apparent that she was neither mentally nor physically prepared for what lay ahead and six weeks later she was sent to a discharge unit. Another soldier from that unit later told *The Guardian* that Manning was being bullied over her perceived sexuality and that he thought she was heading for a mental breakdown.

"The discharge unit at any given time had about 100-plus men. It was basically one big room, it had a group of bunks, bunk-beds and that's where we all lived," the soldier, who spoke anonymously, recalled in 2011.

"[Manning] was being picked on... everybody

said [she] was crazy or [she] was faking and the biggest part of it all was when rumours were getting around that [Manning] was 'Chapter 15' – you know, homosexual. They'd call [Manning] a faggot or call [her] a Chapter 15 – in the military world, being called a 'Chapter 15' is like a civilian being called a faggot to their face on the street. There were guys refusing to go in the showers when [Manning] was even in the damn latrine. I mean, it was childish and it was hateful."

Under the then policy of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' for Defence Department employees, Chapter 15 of the Army's Active Duty Enlisted Administrative Separations code states that "preservice, prior service, or current service homosexual conduct" is grounds for dishonourable discharge from the military.

For reasons that are still not completely understood, the decision to discharge Manning was revoked in January 2008 and she returned to basic training.

After graduating in April she was transferred to Fort Huachuca in Arizona for advanced training as a Military Occupational Speciality intelligence analyst, earning her a Top Secret/ Sensitive Compartmented Information security clearance, working out of the base's Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility. Working with computers again, Manning was back in her element, and she was awarded the National Defence Service Medal and an Army Service Ribbon upon graduating.

In August 2008, Manning was transferred to Fort Drum in New York state to join the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division to begin preparations for deployment to Iraq.

Around this time she met Tyler Watkins, a young psychology and neuroscience student at Brandeis University in Massachusetts. Watkins would be her most serious relationship to date. He introduced her to the hacker community at his university and at nearby Boston University and she began to mix in those circles.

Some superiors expressed concerns about whether Manning was fit to be deployed, but after four weeks at the Joint Readiness Training Centre at Fort Polk, Louisiana, she arrived at Forward Operating Base Hammer near Baghdad in October 2009.

From her workstation at Hammer base, Manning had access to the Secret Internet Protocol Router Network (SIPRNet) and the Joint Worldwide Intelligence Communications System (JWICS) – two of the Department Of State and Department Of Defence's most confidential intelligence data networks – with JWICS also linking into the Department Of Homeland Security and Department Of Justice databases.

Through these networks Manning had access to the vast secrets collected by America's security apparatus, diplomatic networks and war machine. She began to explore. What she saw shocked her to the core, and Chelsea came to feel that she, too, had blood on her hands.

By November 2009, Manning had also resolved the questions about her gender identity and

concluded that she was female. She contacted a gender counsellor in the States and discussed the process of surgically transitioning. "Bradley felt he was female," the counsellor would later tell a journalist from the *New York Times*, "He was very solid on that."

However, Manning also told the counsellor about a targeting mission she had been involved with in Basra in Iraq that had gone wrong. "Two groups of locals were converging in this one area. Manning was trying to figure out why they were meeting," the counsellor recalled. Based on Manning's information, a unit was dispatched to hunt the groups down. Manning initially thought the operation had gone well until a superior explained there had been collateral from the mission. "Some guy loosely connected to the group got killed," the counsellor revealed, adding that Manning had been "very, very distressed" to learn of this.

Despite the US Government's then policy banning openly LGBT people from serving in the military, Manning, by all accounts, made no effort to hide. She (still presenting as "he" Bradley) kept a fairy wand on her workstation, where she

would listen to Lady Gaga. That camp persona would become an important aspect of Manning's subterfuge when she decided to go rouge. It allowed her to hide what she was doing in plain sight.

MANNING CROSSES THE LINE

In January 2010, taking advantage of her security clearance, Manning downloaded almost half a million documents relating to America's recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and copied them

to a CD labelled "Lady Gaga".

She then copied the files to her personal computer and transferred them to an SD card and took them to the United States inside a digital camera without attracting attention.

"I would come in with music on a CD-RW labelled with something like Lady Gaga... erase the music... then write a compressed split file," Manning later revealed. "No one suspected a thing... [I] listened and lip-synched to Lady

information that she was considering leaking. Manning initially sought to give her Iraq War and Afghan War material to the *New York Times* or the *Washington Post* but the *Times* did not return her calls and a reporter she spoke to at the *Post* did not seem interested or did not take her seriously.

Manning then reached out anonymously to *WikiLeaks*, having become aware of them in November the previous year when they published 570,000 SMS messages sent on the day of the

September 11 attacks that had come from a National Security Agency (NSA) database. On February 3, she sent *Wikileaks* the Iraq and Afghanistan War logs anonymously via the dark web but received no acknowledgement in response, so she returned to her duties in Iraq on February 11.

Then on February 18 she passed WikiLeaks a US diplomatic cable from the United States Embassy to Iceland. The less-than-onemonth-old cable from the American deputy chief of mission in Reykjavik detailed private discussions he had held with Icelandic leaders about a referendum that was being held after the country's three biggest banks collapsed - including the sensitive assessment that Iceland could default on its debts in 2011. Within hours of receiving it, WikiLeaks published the cable. Now she knew they were taking her seriously.

What Manning had leaked so far had mostly been large, indiscriminate data dumps. What she was to leak next would shock the world.

Three days after passing the first diplomatic cable (Manning would eventually leak a quarter of a million such cables) *WikiLeaks* received a video file from Manning depicting a

series of airstrikes by two Apache helicopters in Bagdad on July 12, 2007. In the footage, recorded by a camera mounted on the gun sights, we see the helicopters fire their 30mm M230 chain guns on a group of ten men who are standing around in an area that militants had previously used to fire on an American Humvee.

The men, some of them armed, had been escorting two Iraqi journalists from the Reuters news agency to the scene of the attack on the Humvee so that they could report on it. The >>

WHAT CHELSEA SAW: ANATOMY OF MURDER













Footage leaked by Manning shows the killing of Iraqi civillians and journalists by the US Army. *Collateral Murder* is viewable on YouTube.

Gaga's *Telephone* while exfiltrating possibly the largest data spillage in American history." Investigators later discovered the SD card in Manning's basement bedroom in her aunt Debra's home in Maryland.

On January 28, Manning flew from the United States to Germany for rest and recreation. During this trip, she took her first steps outdoors as a woman, wearing a wig and make-up.

Around this time, she also confided to her boyfriend Tyler that she had found some sensitive

>> helicopter crews misidentified them as insurgents after someone near the group appeared to be holding a rocket propelled grenade. The helicopter crew also mistook a camera one of the journalists was carrying as a weapon.

In the video, the helicopter's cannons tear through the group, killing seven of them instantly, including journalist Namir Noor-Eldeen, and badly wounding journalist Saeed Chmagh. Then, when a van pulls over to help the wounded journalist and another two locals step in to help, the helicopter fires again, killing the two men and Chmagh and badly wounding two children that were with them.

In a final airstrike in the video, the helicopters spot a group of people fleeing into an apartment building and target the building with Hellfire missiles. It's not only the killings on camera that make an impact; the banal, workaday radio chatter between the helicopter crews as they carry them out makes it all the more chilling.

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange released the footage on April 5, 2010 in theatrical fashion to the world's media, entitled Collateral Murder. He explained his rational to Al Jazeera: "You can see that they... deliberately target Saaed... despite their earlier belief that... the rules of engagement did not permit them to kill Saeed when he was wounded," Assange said.

"When he is rescued, suddenly that belief changed. You can see in this particular image he is lying on the ground and the people in the van have been separated, but they still deliberately target him. This is why we called it *Collateral Murder*. In the first example, maybe it's collateral exaggeration or incompetence when they strafe the initial gathering... But this particular event – this is clearly murder."

In March, Manning sent *WikiLeaks* an encrypted video she'd found which, she believed, was footage of the 2009 Granai massacre – one of the worst atrocities against civilians by coalition forces during the Afghanistan War. On May 4 of that year a US B-1 Bomber launched an airstrike on the village of Granai in Farah Province in western Afghanistan. The US military initially claimed that the airstrike had killed 20 to 30 civilians along with a group of around 60 insurgents, however, they now concede that "no one will ever be able conclusively to determine the number of civilian casualties that occurred".

The Afghan Government maintains that over 140 people were killed in the attack, with only 22 of them men, and the majority of them being children. Villagers say that Taliban forces had left the area well before the airstrike occurred.

The video had not yet been released when it was, allegedly, deleted by a disgruntled *WikiLeaks* team member when he quit the organisation. If the video was of the Granai massacre and had the public ever seen it, it would have been extremely damaging for the United States and its allies.

Manning was now regularly chatting with someone online that she believed was Julian Assange himself – though this has never been proven. Investigators later found around 15 pages of encrypted chats between her and this person hidden on her MacBook's hard drive.



She began to explore. What she saw shocked her to the core and Chelsea came to feel that she, too, had blood on her hands.

CHELSEA COMES UNDONE

On April 24, Manning outed herself as transgender to her supervisor, Master Sergeant Paul Adkins, in an email titled "My Problem," writing, "I've had signs of it for a very long time... It's caused problems within my family. I thought a career in the military would get rid of it. It's not something I seek out for attention, and I've been trying very, very hard to get rid of it by placing myself in situations where it would be impossible.

"But, it's not going away; it's haunting me more and more as I get older. Now, the consequences of it are dire, at a time when it's causing me great pain in itself... I don't know what to do anymore, and the only 'help' that seems available is severe punishment and/or getting rid of me."

Attached with the email was a photograph of Manning, dressed as a woman she called Breanna, most likely taken on her trip to Germany. Manning probably expected this revelation would result in her immediate discharge from the military. But while Adkins talked to Manning's therapist, he did not share her confession with anyone above him in the Army chain of command.

Manning's behaviour at work and online in the weeks that followed reveal that she was spinning out of control and, now, probably wanted to get caught. On May 7, Manning was found in a storage closet, curled up in a foetal position, with a knife at her feet. She had carved the words, "I want..." into a chair. Later that day, she got into an altercation with another intelligence analyst and punched her in the face.

Manning was taken to the brigade psychiatrist who recommended her discharge from the Army. Instead, Manning's supervisor removed the bolt from Manning's weapon and sent her to work in a supply office, demoting her from the rank of Specialist to Private First Class. Amazingly, she still retained her security clearance at this point.

Two days later, Manning contacted the novelist Jonathan Odell via Facebook and told him that she wanted to talk to him in confidence about some "very high-profile events, albeit as a nameless individual thus far". On May 19, she contacted Eric Schmiedl, a mathematician she had met while in Boston, and told him she had been the source of the *Collateral Murder* video. Then two days later, Manning began chatting online to the person who would be her downfall.

Adrian Lamo was an American internet threat analyst and so-called "grey hat" hacker who had made a name for himself breaking into computer networks at *The New York Times*. While black hat hackers break into networks to cause malicious damage, and white hat hackers identify penetration points in computer systems in order to fix them, grey hat hackers typically break into systems just because they can and just to look around.

When Lamo broke into *The New York Times* intranet in 2002, he not only added his name and details to the paper's database of expert sources, but also used it to seek information about a number of high-profile individuals. *The New York Times* lodged a complaint against Lamo with the Department Of Justice and two years later he surrendered himself to the FBI. Lamo was sentenced to six months of home detention with two-year's probation, and was ordered to pay \$65,000 for compromising the newspaper's computer security as well that of as Microsoft, WorldCom and the Yahoo browser website.

The chat logs between Manning and Lamo on AOL instant messaging, beginning from May 21, show her eagerness to spill the beans. They begin, "Hi. How are you? I'm an army intelligence analyst, deployed to eastern Baghdad, pending discharge for 'adjustment disorder' in lieu of





'gender identity disorder'.

"If you had unprecedented access to classified networks 14 hours a day, 7 days a week for 8+ months, what would you do?"

Manning also revealed to Lamo that she had questioned her gender for several years and that, "Sexual orientation was easy to figure out, but I started to come to terms with it during the first few months of my deployment."

Lamo told Chelsea that he was bisexual and had previously dated a transgender woman, so that she would relate to him. When Manning told Lamo that she was "trying to keep a low profile" he said he could be trusted like a "journalist and a minister... Treat this as a confession or an interview (never to be published) and enjoy a modicum of legal protection," Lamo replied.

"Assange level?" Manning asked in response.

Lamo went on to describe himself to Manning as "a friend to *WikiLeaks*" who had encouraged people to donate to the organisation. Manning quickly revealed that she was someone with access to the "DoS, DoD, CIA, NSA – those are what I know."

Over the next three days, Lamo and Manning chatted frequently and she revealed that the event that had really sent her over the edge was when the Iraqi Federal Police had detained 15 people for printing anti-government



It was her opinion that... it would lead to a greater good... that society would come to the conclusion that the war wasn't worth it...

propaganda. Her army supervisors asked her to find out who the "bad guys" were but when she looked into it she found that the detainees were people trying to expose corruption within the Iraqi cabinet. When she reported this to her commanding officer he "didn't want to hear any of it" and instead asked her to try to help the Iraqi police find more detainees.

It was at that point that Manning realised that she was "actively involved in something that I was completely against".

When Lamo began to appreciate the gravity of what Manning had leaked he spoke to a friend who had worked in counterintelligence.

That friend advised Lamo to contact the authorities and then reported their conversation to his former bosses. Lamo shared the chat logs of his conversations with Manning with Army Counterintelligence and told them that he believed that Manning was potentially endangering lives through the leaks. Lamo also passed the chat logs and Manning's birth name to *Wired* magazine under strict embargo so that they could break the story and reveal her identity when news got out.

Two days after Lamo spoke to Army Counterintelligence, Manning was arrested by the US Army Criminal Investigation Division and then transferred to a holding facility at Camp Arifjan in Kuwait where she was assigned a military defence attorney and placed on suicide watch. On March 11, 2011, after a thorough investigation, Manning was charged with 22 offences including violations of the Uniform Code Of Military Justice and United States Espionage Act. In April of that year, a panel of experts evaluated Manning as mentally fit to stand trial.

At a preliminary hearing, Manning's lawyers argued that the government had exaggerated the harm that the leak of the documents had caused. They accused prosecutors of overcharging Manning in an effort to >> Continued page 80

The Parade...









The Party...

PHOTOGRAPHY CAIN COOPER





PHOTOGRAPHY MATTHEW RETTENMUND

MODEL NICK DAWSON

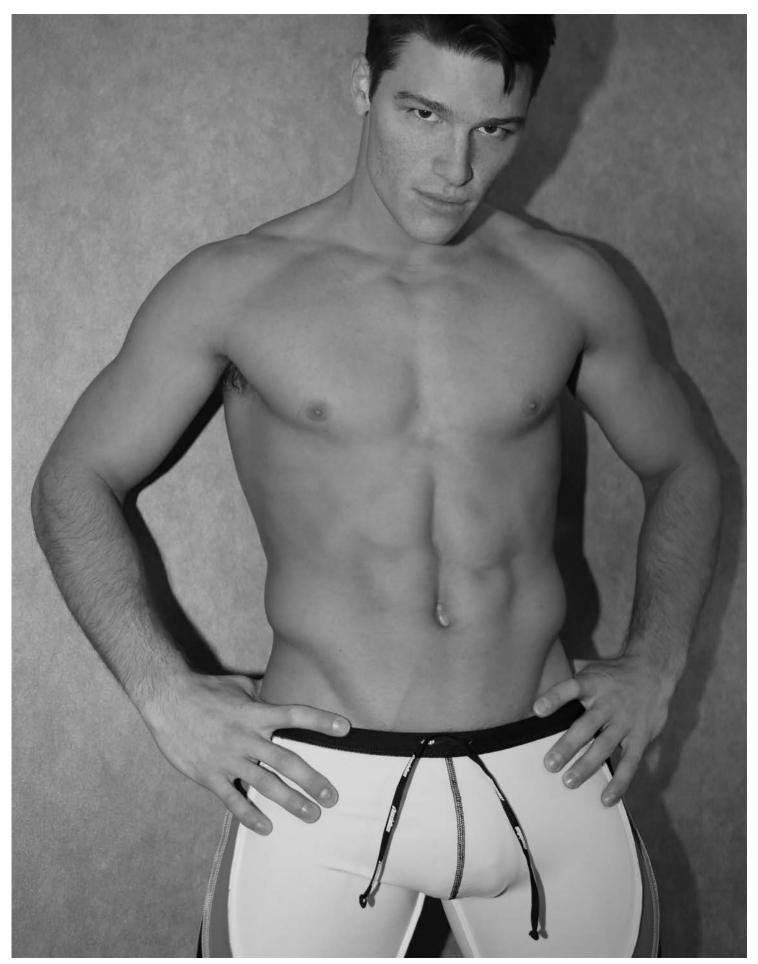


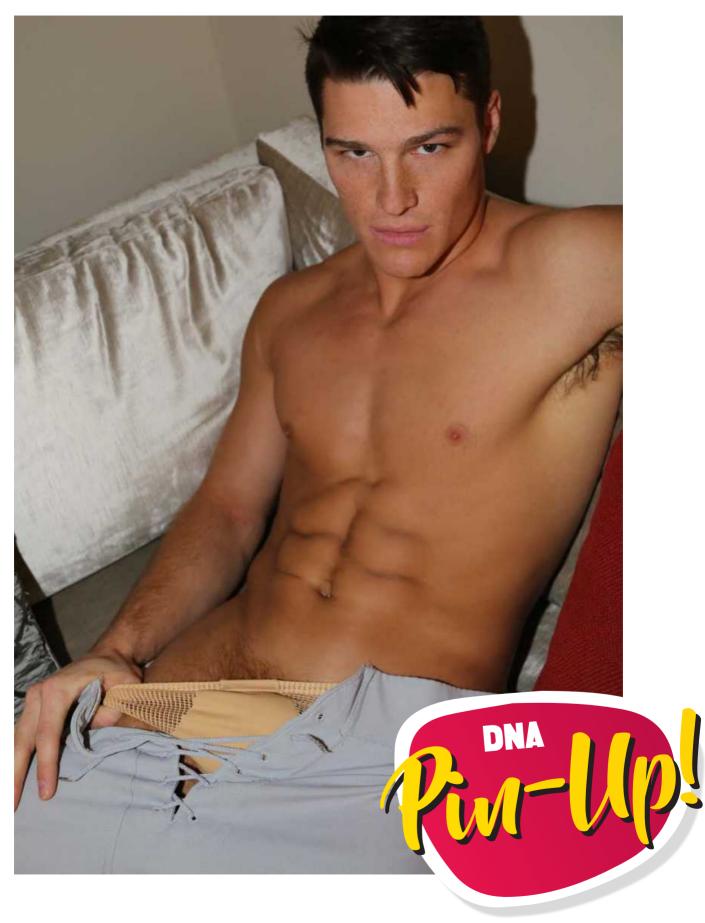












>> Continued from 65 coerce her into giving evidence against Julian Assange, who had become a household name after the release of the Collateral Murder video.

By this time, WikiLeaks had begun to release and publish material from the Iraq War and Afghan War logs, and the diplomatic cables Chelsea had leaked in partnership with *The Guardian*, *Der Siegel*, *Le Monde*, *El Pais* and *The New York Times*.

Before the start of her trial, Manning pleaded guilty to ten of the charges, reading a 35-page statement about her actions into the public record. She was convicted of seven of the remaining 12 charges on July 30, 2013, but acquitted of the charge that she aided the enemy.

A defence psychiatrist testified that Manning's motive had been to "really change how the world views the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and future wars". The psychiatrist said that leaking the documents had been "an attempt to crowdsource an analysis of the war" by making them public.

"It was [her] opinion that if... enough analysis was done on these documents... that it would lead to a greater good... that society, as a whole, would come to the conclusion that the war wasn't worth it... that really no wars are worth it."

On August 14 Manning apologised to the court, stating, "I am sorry that my actions hurt people. I'm sorry that they hurt the United States. I am sorry for the unintended consequences of my actions. When I made these decisions, I believed I was going to help people, not hurt people."

Manning came out publicly as transgender eight days later – the day after her sentencing – with her attorney, David Coombs reading a statement on *The Today Show*.

"As I transition into this next phase of my life, I want everyone to know the real me," the statement read. "I am Chelsea Manning. I am a female. Given the way that I feel, and have felt since childhood, I want to begin hormone therapy as soon as possible.

"I hope that you will support me in this transition. I also request that, starting today, you refer to me by my new name and use the feminine pronoun (except in official mail to the confinement facility). I look forward to receiving letters from supporters and having the opportunity to write back."

Manning has battled with authorities to have them accept her female identity and to transition physically in jail. In April 2014, the Kansas District Court granted Manning a legal name change from Bradley to Chelsea. The Army updated her personnel records to record her new name but refused to correct the gender designation in her file. Manning sought to access hormone therapy in line with her diagnosis of gender dysphoria by the Army's own doctors, but that was not allowed for inmates in military prisons.

In July 2014, the Federal Bureau Of Prisons rejected a request from the Army to transfer Manning to a civilian prison where she could undergo hormone therapy. The then Secretary Of Defence, Chuck Hagel made an exception that should have allowed Manning to wear female undergarments under her prison uniform and receive hormone therapy. However, the Bureau Of Prisons did not honour that, and in August the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) threatened to sue the Defence Department if that was not granted.

It wasn't until February of 2015 that the



Many on the political right in America had called for her execution

something which she qualified for under the Espionage Act.

commander of the United States Disciplinary
Barracks at Fort Leavenworth finally relented
and issued the following memo: "After carefully
considering the recommendation that (hormone
treatment) is medically appropriate and
necessary, and weighing all associated safety
and security risks presented, I approve adding
(hormone treatment) to Inmate Manning's
treatment plan."

With a stroke of a pen, Manning became the first transgender American soldier to be allowed to access hormone therapy in the military justice system. In a public statement later that year Manning confirmed she was receiving treatment. "I finally began my prescribed regime of hormones to continue my overdue gender transition in February," she wrote. "It's been such an amazing relief for my body and brain to finally come into alignment with each other. My stress and anxiety levels have tapered off quite considerably. Overall, things are beginning to move along nicely."

However, Manning was still not allowed to grow her hair longer and getting prison staff to refer to her by the correct pronouns remained a problem.

In September the Army told the ACLU that Manning would become the first transgender inmate in a military prison to be allowed to transition surgically. Yet, three months later, her military doctor was still refusing to change the gender on her official records to female.

CHELSEA'S LEGACY

With President Obama's commutation, Chelsea's struggle with the military justice system comes to a close. Her choice to go public as transgender and her subsequent legal battles to obtain treatment would have had to have some influence on the Obama Administration's decision to end the discharge of openly transgender military personnel, which persisted after the repeal of the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy.

Since June of last year, otherwise qualified United States service members can no longer be discharged, denied re-enlistment, involuntarily separated or denied continuation of service for being transgender regardless of their stage of transition. It remains to be seen whether President Trump will seek to reverse this policy. According to Department Of Defence, estimates would affect as many as 7,000 service members.

On the campaign trail, when asked a question about the issue, Trump responded, "We have a politically correct military, and it's getting more and more politically correct every day... Some of the things that they're asking you to do and be politically correct about are ridiculous... We'd get our military people to come back and make recommendations to me, and I will follow those recommendations."

So how will Manning fare in President Trump's America? Manning encouraged people to take part in the 2016 Presidential Election but did not tell them how to vote, saying only: "One of the most contentious general elections in modern US history is in front of us... if you're lucky enough to be able to vote, don't let that privilege go to waste."

Trump publicly encouraged the hacking and leaking of material that would damage the Clinton campaign during the election and has praised Assange for publishing leaked Democratic National Committee emails. But it appears he has a different standard when it comes to government secrets.

On January 19 of this year Trump spokesman



and soon-to-be White House press secretary Sean Spicer told reporters, "[The commutation is] disappointing, and it sends a very troubling message when it comes to the handling of classified information and to the consequences of those who leak information that threatens the security of our nation."

Spicer called Manning, "someone who has given away this country's secrets," but did not answer directly when asked whether Trump would attempt to take steps to undo Obama's decision. President Trump then attacked Chelsea's commutation in a January 26 tweet in response to Manning criticising Obama in *The Guardian* newspaper for not being bold enough during his presidency.

"Ungrateful TRAITOR Chelsea Manning, who should never have been released from prison, is now calling President Obama a weak leader. Terrible!" he tweeted.

Legal experts agree that Trump does not have the power to revoke Obama's commutation.

MANNING AND SNOWDEN

Manning's Iraq War log release alone is the biggest military leak in US history, dwarfing the material released by fellow whistleblower Edward Snowden in 2013 that documented the digital mass surveillance of the public by the United States' National Security Agency.

Manning's Iraq War logs documented a further 15,000 civilian deaths in Iraq that had not been previously known to the public. Manning's release of US diplomatic cables provided the information fuel for the Arab Spring that spread across the Middle East in the early 2010s.

Snowden is not eligible for a pardon because, unlike Manning who has faced the military's criminal justice process, he remains on the run.

While Snowden leaked his material in a much more selective way to avoid harm, he has praised Manning for raising the issue of "over-classification" – in which information that is not related to national security is made classified and

kept from the public record.

"In the last year, the White House told us that 95 million records have been created, classified and withheld from the public in the year 2012," Snowden said in 2014 via video link at an awards ceremony where Manning was being honoured. "Some of this information is unambiguously necessary for public ends. For example, how can we vote without evidence of the true costs of the wars in which we are involved. Instances of public corruption or official corruption in nations that we support and ally ourselves with... and unambiguous war crimes. All of these were represented in the Manning leak."

Learning of Manning's commutation in January, Snowden tweeted, "In five more months, you will be free. Thank you for what you did for everyone, Chelsea. Stay strong a while longer... Let it be said here in earnest, with good heart: Thanks, Obama."

Remarkable as it has already been, the Chelsea Manning story has only just begun. ★



Many boys grew up adoring Wonder Woman, so how will her new live-action movie shape up to her legendary past? Lasoo of truth, anyone?





Wonder Woman was created by William Moulton Marston, and first featured in All Star Comics #8 in December, 1941. Six months later she appeared in her own comic book series. She has also regularly appeared in comic books featuring the superhero teams Justice Society and Justice League. Her origin story says she was formed out of clay by her mother and bought to life by the Olympian Gods.

1960

Wonder Woman was a founding member of Justice League in DC's Brave And The Bold #28.

1975-'79

Lynda Carter starred in the iconic

2011

NBC attempted to return Wonder Woman to television, but neither the casting nor the pilot were wellreceived.

The UN named Wonder Woman a UN Honorary Ambassador for the Empowerment of Women And Girls. Israeli actress Gal Gadot appears as Wonder Woman in Batman V Superman: Dawn Of Justice, marking the character's feature film debut. Gadot will star in the character's first solo live-action film Wonder Woman in 2017.



In 1985 Wonder Woman ditched the invisible plane after an origin reboot gave her the ability to fly.

WONDER WOMAN COSPLAY







Wonder Woman TV series.



The US army intelligence officer crash lands on the Amazons' Paradise Island. There, young Princess Diana helps nurse him back to health and gradually falls for him.

WONDER WOMAN HAS HOOKED

UP WITH ALL THE SUPER STUDS

2016

1989: SUPERMAN

On an alternate reality, post-apocalyptic Earth, Superman and Wonder Woman shack up and pop out a few super kids.

1990: AQUAMAN

During the Justice League, Aquaman is married to Mera, however, during the 1990s, both he and Wonder Woman are single and hook up.

2001: BATMAN

Late in the animated series of *Justice League* and *Justice League* Unlimited the Bat and the Amazon rock on.





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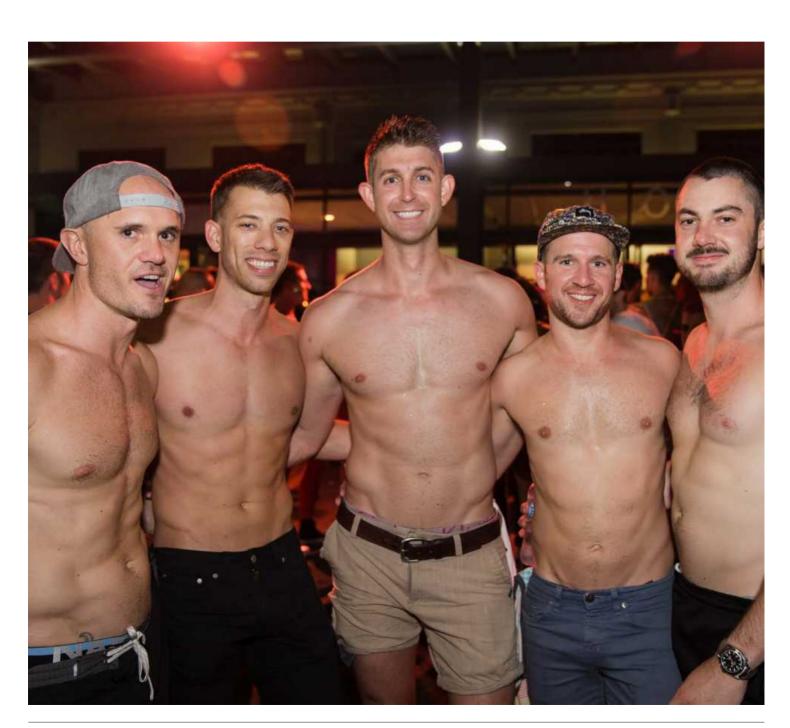








The Party... PHOTOGRAPHY CAIN COOPER

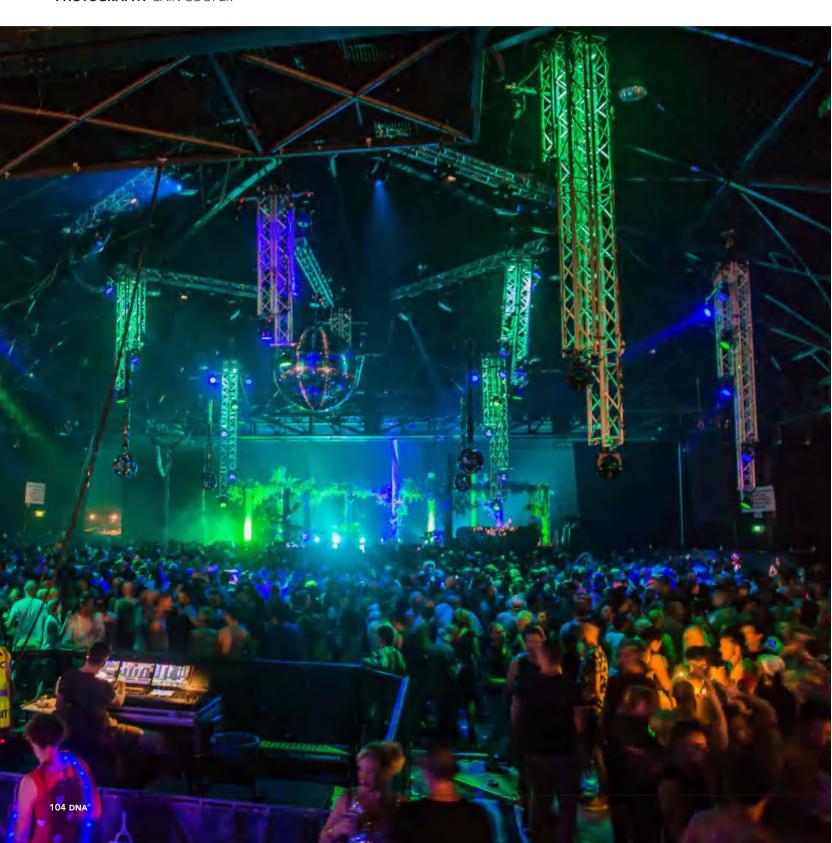








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